

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 AGR-10 L-02 FRB-01 OMB-01

TAR-01 SP-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-01

PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-09 /126 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9316

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJ: COCOA: 27TH SESSION OF THE FAO

REF: (A) STATE 45795, (B) LONDON 3761

1. SUMMARY: FAO SUB-GROUP ON COCOA STATISTICS MET IN LONDON MORNING OF MARCH 12, AGREED TO TRANSFER PART OF STATISTICAL WORK TO INTERNATIONAL COCOA ORGANIZATION (ICCO). MEETING CHAIRED BY GHANA. A. VITON REPRESENTED FAO. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A MEETING AT THE ICCO HEADQUARTERS ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 12, THE 27TH SESSION OF THE FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON COCOA, SUB-GROUP ON STATISTICS DECIDED TO SHIFT TO THE ICCO SOME OF THE STATISTICAL WORK HERETOFORE PERFORMED BY FAO (AGENDA ITEM 9). IN PARTICULAR THIS WILL INVOLVE PREPARATION BY ICCO OF FUTURE ISSUES OF THE COCOA STATISTICS BULLETIN. DESPITE REFERENCES TO PLACING THE SUB-GROUP "IN COLD STORAGE," IT WAS CLEAR THE FAO WILL CONTINUE NORMAL COMMODITY INTELLIGENCE WORK WITH REGARD TO COCOA, INCLUDING CONTRIBUTIONS OF COCOA DATA TO FAO'S

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COMMODITY BULLETIN.

3. THERE HAD BEEN RUMORS OF OPPOSITION TO THE PHASEOUT OF THIS ASPECT OF FAO'S STATISTICAL WORK; HOWEVER, IN THE PLENARY, A CONSENSUS QUICKLY DEVELOPED FOR THE SHIFT TO THE ICCO. AFTER THE UK, GHANA, SWITZERLAND AND BRAZIL HAD ALL SPOKEN IN FAVOR OF THE TRANSFER, THE USDEL ASSOCIATED SELF WITH THE OTHERS, POINTING OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE US WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE ICCO, WE HAVE COOPERATED FULLY WITH THAT ORGANIZATION IN STATISTICAL MATTERS AND THE USREP PERSONALLY WAS IMPRESSED WITH ENERGY AND EXPERTISE OF ICCO STATISTICS STAFF IN DIGGING OUT AND PRESENTING INFORMATION. USDEL JOINED BRAZIL IN EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR TIRELESS WORK DONE BY DR. VITON AND OTHERS OF FAO STAFF.

4. RE OTHER AGENDA ITEMS, ITEMS 4 AND 5 CONCERNING FORECAST OF PRODUCTION AND GRINDINGS, RESPECTIVELY, WERE DELETED IN VIEW OF RECENT ACTION BY ICCO STATISTICS COMMITTEE, REF (B). DISCUSSION OF ITEM 8, "REPORT ON PROPOSED SEMINAR ON COCOA EXTENSION AND ECONOMICS OF PRODUCTION" REVEALED LITTLE PROGRESS OVER THE PREVIOUS SESSION OF THE SUB-GROUP--THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE SEMINAR BUT STILL UNSOLVED ARE PROBLEMS OF FINANCING AND HOSTSHIP (GHANA MAY ACT AS HOST AT FIRST SEMINAR WITH A SECOND TO BE HELD IN LATIN AMERICA).

5. RE ITEM 8, "PROGRESS REPORT ON STUDY OF WORLD COCOA ECONOMY" VITON REPORTED TO GROUP THAT ITEM WOULD REMAIN ON THE FAO AGENDA BUT THAT SINCE ICCO HAD ASSIGNED HIGH PRIORITY ITSELF TO SUCH A STUDY AND HAD ALREADY BEGUN WORK ON IT, MATTER WAS NOW "A LITTLE LESS URGENT" FOR FAO. VITON NOTED THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE ICCO AS A CONSULTANT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ICCO STUDY.

6. IN RESPONSE TO USDEL'S QUESTION WHETHER THERE WERE ANY BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS OF ICCO STUDY FOR FAO, VITON REPLIED THAT "THE TWO THINGS ARE ENTIRELY UNCLASSIFIED

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SEPARATE." HE POINTED OUT, IN EFFECT, THAT ICCO STUDY WOULD BE FUNDED BY THAT ORGANIZATION, AND SINCE "STUDY OF WORLD COCOA ECONOMY" WOULD REMAIN ON THE FAO AGENDA, FINANCING INCIDENT TO THIS, IF ANY, WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR WITHIN THE FAO BUDGET.  
RICHARDSON

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